

CLAIMS

1. A sulphur dioxide releasing film comprising:  
  
a hydrophilic polymer which is swellable upon contact with moisture;  
  
calcium sulphite or sodium sulphite; and  
  
a latent acidulant.
2. A film according to claim 1 in which the latent acidulant comprises at least one anhydride.
3. A film according to claim 2 in which the latent acidulant comprises at least one anhydride compound from the group comprising succinic anhydride, benzoic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, and adipic anhydride.
4. A film according to any of claims 1 to 3 in which the polymer comprises ethyl cellulose or cellulose acetate.
5. A film according to any of claims 1 to 3 in which the polymer comprises a blend of a hydrophilic polymer with a hydrophobic polymer.
6. A film according to claim 5 in which the hydrophobic polymer comprises polyethylene.
7. A film according to claim 5 or claim 6 in which the hydrophilic polymer comprises poly(ethylene oxide) or poly(vinyl alcohol-ethylene).

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8. A film according to any of claims 1 to 7 in which the polymer is capable of absorbing during swelling at least 2%, preferably at least 4%, most preferably about 10% water by weight of the polymer.
9. A sulphur dioxide releasing article comprising a sulphur dioxide releasing film according to any of claims 1 to 8.
10. A sulphur dioxide releasing article according to claim 9 comprising an article coated with the sulphur dioxide releasing film.
11. A packaging material according to claim 9 or claim 10.
12. A foodstuff according to claim 9 or claim 10.

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